

**PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 121**  
**Clallam County, Washington**  
**September 1, 1993 Through August 31, 1994**

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**Schedule Of Findings**

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1. District Officials Should Comply With State Bid Laws

The district is in the process of remodeling the downstairs area of its administration building. As of February 10, 1995, costs for the project were \$127,593.

According to RCW 28A.335.190, this project constitutes a public work and is subject to formal bid procedures, which state in part:

(1) When, in the opinion of the board of directors of any school district, the cost of any furniture, supplies, equipment, building, improvements, or repairs . . . will equal or exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars, complete plans and specifications for such work or purchases shall be prepared and notice by publication given . . . of the intention to receive bids therefor . . .

The cost of any public work, improvement or repair for the purposes of this section shall be the aggregate of all amounts to be paid for labor, material, and equipment on one continuous or interrelated project where work is to be performed simultaneously or in close sequence.

Whenever the estimated cost of a public works project is fifty thousand dollars or more, the public bidding process provided in subsection (1) of this section shall be followed.

District officials did not consider the improvements to be a public works project. District officials considered each contract to be a separate project and subject to a small works roster for public works because each separate component was intended to be less than \$50,000. We believe that the project should have been bid.

Without calling for competitive bids, the district cannot be assured it received the best possible price. Also, it did not permit interested contractors the opportunity to submit proposals.

We recommend that district officials comply with state bid laws.